

The Mouth

October 2018

WHAT'S NEW?

From the Editor

Long awaited, *The Mouth* is finally here! Many thanks to everyone's contributions and patience. Compiling a paper all by oneself is a difficult task, formatting submissions aren't always flooding in, but because of this patience, we have many great pieces of student writing to share with you.

Anyways, as the Four Rivers student news outlet, it is our responsibility to share with you everything that is happening in our community. Over the summer some changes took place, big and small. From renovations to our beloved blue barn and AC in the high school, to new faculty, and schedule changes, the staff worked hard all summer to improve the Four Rivers culture and atmosphere.

Division II has seen the biggest changes in terms of faculty this year. Last year we said goodbye to Ms. Pratt and Ms. Ritchie, welcoming a new Math teacher, Ms. Sun, and returning English teacher Ambuter. Ms. Rodriguez Salas took over Ms. Beardslee's position teaching Spanish for grades seven and nine, while Ms. Beardslee moved to teach the 9th-grade Environmental Science class in place of Ms. Stamas. Division III welcomed Ms. Katz to the team as our new math teacher. Mr. Smith has taken the position of our school chef. Everyone is adapting well to our unique school environment

The more obvious cosmetic changes to our school sparked a bit of a buzz on social media when students returned for their advisor meetings in August. There was some mystery surrounding the new layout of our state of the art athletic facility, as well as disbelief that our high school might finally be escaping its fiery infamy during the hotter months of the school year. The blue barn construction was completed a couple weeks into the school year. We learned that this new section was to be used for wellness class; Coachie's new classroom, as well as a four-square arena. The roof

needed to be rebuilt because of previous leakage issues that caused some spots under the barn roof to get super wet during class periods with precipitation. Our barn is looking a lot more fit for the new school year.

As many of you know, the Division III Math and Division II English rooms have been hooked up to the A.C. system, but there is still progress to be made on the air-conditioning in the high school. We must keep in mind that it's a big project, and our patience will pay off once we hit those last few months of the year. A big thanks to all of the staff who made these improvements possible!

It is a busy time of year! as the weather gets colder, fall sports are coming to an end. Boy's and Girls Varsity Soccer have wrapped up their regular season games, and have The RVAL finals, semifinals, and quarterfinals to look forward to this week. The Middle School team will be having their last game at Charlemont today, and boys JV has two more games, wrapping up their season at home on Wednesday. All soccer teams will have their end-of-season celebrations on Monday, November 5. Cross Country finals will be taking place this Wednesday at Mount Greylock. The team will have their end-of-season event this Friday, November 2. Good luck to everyone with their sports ventures! Go Otters!

In other news, because Halloween is just around the corner, we're having a school booster week from today until Friday, with different themes each day, prompting different costume ideas every day of the week. Check out the flyers in the hall for more details on each day's theme. Also in just a few weeks fall intensives will be taking place, from November 16th to 21st. Sign-ups are closed, and that list should be coming out in not too long.

Until next time, keep sharing your thoughts, and enjoy the paper!



Hall Pass

An opinion piece

Anonymous

The rule of our hall pass system arose from an era of students wandering the halls when they didn't want to be in class. I'd like to put it out there that a new system should be devised to replace our hall pass system. I'm not saying we should throw out the concept of a hall pass, but we should find a new system that solves the problem of people leaving class a lot. Our current system causes I believe interrupts student's wellness.

The only time to use the bathroom is during class since we have very short passing periods and nonexistent ones if the classroom's clocks are not synchronized. The pass system stops people from using the bathroom when they actually need to and still allows people to leave class when they just want a break. When people leave class because they want a break, other people who actually need to use the bathroom cannot go. Since there is only one pass in a room, if multiple people need to use the bathroom at once they cannot. I think this is unnatural, we shouldn't put education over our body's health. The hall pass can also make going to the bathroom stressful since others are often waiting to use it. People are thus rushed which also is not healthy.

I'd like to propose a new system, any system that would not hinder student's health. School should be a natural part of living and living creatures need to use the bathroom. One idea I'll put forward is that we have a separate take-a-break pass, and multiple bathroom passes or some kind of system where you can leave whenever within reason. Or trust can be put back into the students for a trial period and the students could be responsible and only take a break when they need it. Let the students chose to be successful in their classes. If they want to succeed they won't miss a lot of class time.

Kavanaugh Investigation

An Informative Piece

From Zaroma Bryan

WARNING: The following article contains content regarding sexual assault, reader discretion is advised

In light of the #MeToo movement, many women and men alike are coming forward with their stories of sexual assault. This movement has helped guide many to their voices and encouraged them to speak out about an otherwise controversial topic.

Over the summer, Christine Blasey Ford, a 51-year-old psychology professor in California, had written a confidential letter to her Congresswoman, Rep. Anna Eshoo, containing sexual assault allegations accusing United States Circuit Judge, Brett Kavanaugh of attempted rape in the 1980's.

In the letter, Ford explains how at a party they had both attended as teenagers, Kavanaugh, "stumbling drunk," held her down as he tried to remove her clothing and groped her until a third party intervened and she was able to escape.

Eshoo forwarded this letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein, who then withheld this information from the public at Ford's request to remain anonymous, she instead notified the FBI to conduct a thorough investigation in order to determine whether or not Kavanaugh is in fact guilty.

In the midst of the reports mentioning an anonymous woman accusing Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct, the media caught wind of this information, and Ford came forward.

On September 14, 2018, Kavanaugh countered these accusations by saying, "I categorically and unequivocally deny these allegations. I did not do this back in high school or at any time," later adding that he was a virgin all throughout high school and "many years later."

However, recently, many other women came forward with allegations against Kavanaugh. Deborah Ramirez, who attended Yale at the same time as Kavanaugh, accuses him of indecent exposure, saying he pushed his genitalia in her face, causing her to touch it without her consent. Kavanaugh addressed this by calling it, "a smear, plain and simple."

It is important to note that during his stay at Yale, Brett Kavanaugh belonged to a fraternity called, "Delta Kappa Epsilon," infamous for their misogyny. In 2011, the university banned the DKE for chanting the phrase, "no means yes, and yes means anal," in front of

the women's center, for promoting rape. (continued on next page)

The White House is now standing with this denial. The vote, originally scheduled for Thursday, September 20th, has been postponed until further notice due to the few Republicans in Congress that have decided to wait until the public hearing, which has been set for Monday, October 24th.

Kavanaugh was persistent with his denial, telling Fox News reporter, Martha MacCallum, "What I know is the truth, and the truth is I've never sexually assaulted anyone."

The White House stood with this denial. The vote, originally scheduled for Thursday, September 20th, was postponed due to a few Republicans in Congress who decided to wait until more evidence was available. The senate voted 50-48 to confirm Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh as a supreme court justice on October 6th.

The Wage Gap

An Informative Piece
From Lily Kulp

Dear Mouth readers,

This is not a letter, but rather an address to y'all as a whole. In Social Studies, our assignment was to research a topic and present it in a manner outside of our classroom. Well, after much consideration and pulling-out-of-hair, I have come to the conclusion to talk about the unfortunate issue of the wage gap.

The wage gap is the well-researched idea-mostly-fact that men get paid more than women. About 20 cents more, to be specific- women make on average 80 cents to the man's \$1. Though this may not seem like much, according to basic math, women fall around \$10,000 short of what an average white man would make in a year. That's a lot. Because of more basic math, this leads us to the conclusion that for the man and woman to equally paid by retirement, men can retire at the leisurely age of 60, while white women would have to work for another 10 years for their lifetime wage to catch up. But then in the eyes of some people, women shouldn't even be working more than men. They should be at home with the children, making dinner and cleaning the house etc. Not working their butts off 'till past the age of 70. How this all adds up I will never know.

This is just taking in account the average white woman. As we all know, the United States of America is a melting pot, which means a large portion of working women and men and in-between identify as a racial or ethnic minority. If we take a look at this graph here, we can see that the differences between payment are staggering. This isn't just about the gap between men and women, this is a problem in all parts of the spectrum.

The most obvious thing we can see is that the wage gap between white women and men is the most significant. That definitely surprised me when I saw it the first time.

Looking at the extreme differences in the earnings from Hispanics or African Americans or American Natives, we can come to the conclusion that it would take even longer for them to reach that equal pay oasis by retirement. Black women would have to work 23 years longer than the white man retiring at age 60, Native women would have to work 29 years longer, and Latinas would have to work 34 years longer. This puts the retiring age up in the 80s and 90s for the general minorities.

It is definitely upsetting to see this all laid out, plain for us to see- it seems a little strange to me sometimes why there even is a wage gap. Like, why don't you just pay everyone the same? Seems pretty straightforward from a zoomed out perspective. And maybe a zoomed out perspective on things can come in handy, seeing that something is obviously wrong and needs to be fixed, without looking at the nitty-gritty details first and foremost.

But not everything is so awful; though most of it is, if we're being honest. To shine some happy sunlight on the situation, the wage gap is slowly but surely closing. Although it might not be instantly obvious, according to an article from CNN, data from the Census Bureau and the Labor Department stated that women earned 79.6 cents for every man's dollar in 2015. In 2016, women earned about 82 cents for every dollar. So our efforts look like they may be going somewhere, but I think it's kinda a ridiculous thing to brag about- ah yes, the gap between two parties of people that should be equal in the first place has closed by 0.4 cents!

This information may be alarming, but don't despair! It should only take another estimated 41 years- or until 2059- for the average woman to finally catch up to her male counterpart. So for now, we'll sit tight (or not!) until everyone can finally understand the absurd unfairness of what is America's wage gap.

The mouth of The Mouth

Staff Contribution

By Andy Patari

I get school lunch everyday. Specifically the hot lunch. I don't even need to order it, Ms. Wood knows to sign me up each morning. Since I'm in my seventh year here, it's likely that I have eaten more Four Rivers school lunches than anyone else in the history of the school. I've outlasted three different lunch servers. Sometimes during the summer I take my midday meal at the Brattleboro hospital as a way to get my institutional lunch fix when school isn't in session. That's not a joke, it's something I actually do.

I'm telling you this not to brag but to lay out my credentials for the work I hope to do in these pages. I will eat school lunch and tell you about it here. I'll be a school food sommelier, a beat writer on the front lines of the lunch line, a journalist who is willing to stand up for the common (room) folk.

My plan is to share noteworthy meals, report on important lunch changes, and generally draw on my experience from eating roughly 1000 Four Rivers hot lunches. Think of it as a combination between a Bon Appetit blog and a police blotter, if police blotters talked about food instead of crime.

But enough about me, on to the food!

10/17 - Pasta Wednesday/ Whole grain pasta with meatballs

Portion alert! I'm used to carrying around a 14 pound baby in my free time and this lunch still made me say "oof" out loud as I picked up my plate. Though the strategic value of eating that much carbs at 11am is questionable, I still appreciate a hefty serving of anything that I can eat. If this trend keeps up, be on the lookout for more sedentary clubs in the winter session as students and teachers alike look for a chance to comfortably digest their pasta lunches.

10/22 - Spicy Chicken Sandwich

This lunch was responsible for giving me the idea for this column. I just had way too much to say afterwards to keep it to myself any longer. The most striking thing

about the sandwich was how well it lived up to its name. I feel like most mass produced entrees, including "spicy" chicken sandies from standard fast food restaurants, tend to err on the safe side and provide spiciness more as a flavor than a real sensation of heat. I applaud the guts of whoever made the decision to give us a patty that was truly spicy.

10/23 Chef Sam's Cuban Pulled Pork Sandwich

A few years ago, if you would have told me that something on the menu could get me more excited than "Thanksgiving Dinner," I would have laughed in your face. But now here we are in 2018 and Chef Sam continues to deliver a variety of innovative, tasty meals. The simple fact that they are serving them to us for school lunch means that they are also cost effective and logistically efficient to produce. That's no small feat, and today's Cuban sandwich was yet another example of how well Chef Sam manages to find a delicious middle ground among all those competing factors.

That's it for now folks, see you in the lunch line.

Is There Art?

From Noah Pitcoff

Is there art? Yes. But where? These are the questions. If you have the answer, that is good, because you could be the one to help me, Noah Pitcoff, spread the something or other of art throughout the community. If you see art or make art in your daily life, feel free to send it to me at npitcoff@frcps.org, and it might get posted on a Four Rivers Art blog or Instagram page that will soon exist if there is in fact art. And if there is no art, just tell me, and

I will not be upset.

Is There Editors?

From the Lonely Editor

Are you a Division III student with a knack for english, indesign, or criticizing others? Do *you* like having a mouth? If so, perhaps you should consider applying to "work" as a co-editor for the mouth. It will look great on those college applications, and its a fun way to further integrate yourself with the four rivers community. Any potential applicants should contact Isaiah Newcombe, by email or in-person.

Horoscopes

From Emmett Ruth - self-taught professional

ARIES

Are you worried that you haven't washed and hanged curtains yet, taken your dog Henry out for "the talk", or brought your cat to its mental health clinician in the past two days? You should then be aware, or at least accustomed to, the fact that October may be the source of much more important questions than the already overwhelming and monstrously significant concerns that have arisen and proceed to stare into your soul and very being. People born in Aries will have to cope with sharp criticism or at least what feels like sharp criticism. In reality, they're most likely harmless suggestions, like maybe you should take your dog out for "the talk" or make sure your cat hasn't fallen deep into the abyss of psychotic tendencies... or whatever. Its okay Aries, you'll be okay. Oh, I almost forgot. Give this number a call if necessary, "1-800-yourcatslosingitssh*t"

TAURUS

"Man is the measure of all things," said Greek philosopher Protagoras... wait maybe it was Protogatus. Nope. Greek philosopher Protagoras. But anyway in October, only Taurus will be the right measure! Yes, nothing resists your X-ray vision. Do the kids wear odd socks? Woe to them! Does your father have an unknown name tattooed on his lower back? I would hope not... Does your darling have a messy table? He will definitely regret it, or at least acknowledge that words are coming out of your mouth! And what about you? If you find out that your figure is not suitable for the front page of Elle, when "accidentally" looking at your reflection in a gas station window, you will be unjustifiably angry at the world!

GEMINI

The October Horoscope is a colorful bouquet of excitement, impressions and strong emotional feelings for all

Gemini people as if you Gemini didn't already have an excess of emotional feelings! This month of 2018 wants to tell you that if you like strong coffee, imagine that you will drink it for a whole month; but instead of your normal serving, you'll be drinking four times as much. According to the horoscope, October may be enjoyed above all by people born in Gemini, and everyone else will spend the whole month clawing the eyes out in irritation due to your abundance of energy and preposterous theories on shared consciousness! Shut up Gemini! Reading a book by Carl Jung doesn't make you a genius!

CANCER

October will definitely surprise you. Instead of feeling like your lost in an empty desert, expect to feel like your lost in an only partially empty desert. But do not worry, the ringing in your ears is just tinnitus! You deserve the pleasure of heavenly jingle bells and pure Canadian goose wings. The horoscope suggests that Cancer should not be modest in October. In everyday life, as well as in a restaurant, do not just enjoy the main course, but definitely, require birds nest soup and boshintang! Be demanding, be ambitious, be assertive, be confident and decisive, be forceful, be insistent...

LEO

An extended warranty can usually be purchased with any consumer electronics. But in love, there is no such thing. The 2018 October Horoscope will surely convince you. Human relations are fragile and therefore it is not wise to treat them carelessly, a lesson I must come to learn myself. Even Pattex or any other "miraculous" glue does not bring together marriage or relationship that falls from a 2-meter height on a hard concrete floor or often in my case a 200-meter height onto a floor made of graphene. Leo, it's hard I know, the world is not for you or me to control. Get out there, be ambitious, make your intentions known, and be persuasive. Lily, I hope my mention of you within in this blurb does all of those things. Mesa Verde this Friday at 7:00?

VIRGO

According to the October horoscope, everything may seem to be a little "sluggish" now, whether you want it or not. Virgo's bodily as well as mental harmony won't start easily. But don't spoil your mood with petty self-loathing and oh so boring rants about your not so awful life and insignificant problems. In marriage and in any oth-



er relationship, you have to simply accept that while you and your partner's lives may be intertwined they remain separate you are not to be controlled and clung to endlessly and the same goes for your partner. Relax Virgo, take a step back and try to perceive each conflict through a more neutral lens.

The Horoscope for the tenth month of 2018 shows you who are born in Libra, as a powerful sailor crossing a puddle in the Walmart parking lot. However, while Charon, according to Greek mythology, was the ferryman of Hades who carried souls across the river Styx, Libra people are heading exactly in the opposite direction with their strictly optimistic boat, crossing as much water as a puddle can possibly hold. According to the October horoscope, Libra will probably not succeed in most everything. But, also according to the October horoscope, it is just Libra who will become an unwelcome friend and colleague that will try but fail to help others drop an excessive burden and take them to the right side of the puddle of destiny!

SCORPIO

If Scorpio has to choose between warm slippers or solid farm boots that are suited for tough conditions, he or she should definitely prefer to wear neither or maybe both. October is the month when Scorpio will give a goodbye to being a person who knows how to wear shoes. “Whoever catches more hares at the same time does not catch even the single one,” says the old proverb or something like it. It does not matter whether Scorpio will wear a pair of Uggs, Nike SBs, Gucci flip flops, Doc Martens, or their pasty bare feet, he or she will know exactly what to do and where to succeed. In October, Scorpio will not lack the necessary footwear and proper orientation (the ability of the sixth sense). Be alert, clear sky will be followed by clouds on the horizon. Thus, Scorpio should show more respect to proper footwear and well-kept toenails. Even checking your toe fungus or making sure your stinky feet are properly moisturized is not a bad idea in such a situation. The horoscope is warning that chaos and distracting tendency may overtake the leading role in the life of Scorpio. It will become evident mostly in the sphere of light up sketchers, rather than in love and relationships. October 2018 should, therefore, encourage Scorpio to be more cautious and not to gamble with health, property, or Proximal subungual onychomycosis.

CAPRICORN

Capricorn should remember that everything in your life may change by 360 degrees in a second ultimately leaving you back where you started, when someone in a

slow moving car does not pay the phone bill or during a moment when you accidentally discover an old letter that should be forgotten forever and ever and ever and ever and ever – when you reveal an unpleasant secret about your beloved feline. But the horoscope does not want to scare you even though it may be doing so unintentionally. October 2018, however, will only stimulate Capricorn to deeper humility; enjoy the notion of all you have now, instead of lamenting what you ever had or could have even though we both know you could've done better. Big problems are in sight.

AQUARIUS

Horoscope asks: “Do you know what is the difference between butter and toothpaste?” Both are often teal or orange. But the main difference is that butter is completely unnatural (it only takes a long time to shake the milk), but you can find toothpaste anywhere in the wild. It is organic, therefore, made by momma earth. And the October horoscope sees the greatest advantage of Aquarius in being able to find toothpaste outdoors – link things or people to new better and more useful units. You don't need to make any invention in chemistry, of course, it is enough if you go out and find three different flavors of toothpaste in your local woods. The enlightenment often comes suddenly, like a flash from a clear sky or maybe the squeeze of a tube of toothpaste. You can bite your lips, or the immense heat burns some of your nice curls, but it is certain that your life will not be the same without toothpaste. Toothpaste.

PISCES

It's clear that you or at the very least someone like you is going to do something at some point. The result is neither wanted or unwanted, but most likely inconsequential. So watch out because an event is going to occur, and it might not be a good one but who is really to say. According to this horoscope, Pisces will probably have to make a decision about something. Good for you Pisces. May the universe grant you neutral luck.



Rufus' Ruminations

From Rufus Seward, PHD

So, as a queer person, I want to meet other people like me. Where should I go?

You see, whenever I want to meet queer people I simply **pretend my regular friends are queer** and treat them as such. But this might not work for you, and certainly might not work for your friends. Unless they're already queer. Then your problem is solved! However, maybe you have no friends. In THAT case, your best option is to **become a boy scout**. The Boy Scouts of America legally cannot refuse you based on gender and will take you in if you ask nicely enough. This way you can learn how to tie **cool knots** and **make something of your life**. If this doesn't work, try finding local queer outreach events, like farmer's markets, or become a part of online communities with large queer populations.

So I have a crush on this person. I think they like someone else though. Should I tell them or just let them be happy with the other girl?

Whenever I have a crush on someone, especially on people of the opposite sex, I find that becoming friendly with them first tends to work best. But in a situation where it is more urgent, your best option is to **go all-out**. Rent a monster truck and show up to their house, while a mariachi band stands on top, proclaiming your love for the person. This shows that **you care**, as you were never told where they live, and it shows that you really care by way of your means of transportation. This is just the tip of the iceberg though, as your monster truck will open up to reveal several more flying monster trucks which will **crash into each other**, with the smoke spelling "**please go out with me, that other girl you like would never do this.**" Then, just when they think it's over, the smoke will explode (somehow) and spell out "**I want to spend my life with you, and get old in a cottage in Eastern Wales, though the location of the cottage isn't hugely important. It's just important that you feel the same way.**" This will give them **no choice**. However, not everyone can afford monster trucks and mariachi bands. If you are like most of us, which you probably are (considering that most people are like most of us), you might want to try something more reasonable. If the other person is already begin-

ning their relationship with the other person, your honesty may only stir up drama. But if their relationship is limited to a perceived crush, I would say go for it girl! You're a goddess and no one can steal your flames.

My parents are completely monogamous and don't understand why anyone would want more than that. Do I need to tell them that I prefer a different relationship model or should I leave it on a need-to-know basis? Also, how would I tell them that I'm poly?

In my experience, you do not need to tell them right away. Simply **go about your business** as you would normally and things will work out; by the time they see you on your seven-person tandem bicycle, awkwardly but romantically maneuvering your way through the park, they will have **figured it out**. At this point, they will try to talk to you about relationships. However, you already know **far better than them!** The interaction will go something like this. Mom: "Son or daughter, we notice you've been trying to kiss 9 or 10 people at once. It looks really impractical and we're confused as to how that would even work," to which you will reply, "Silly matriarch! We have simply ascended to a higher realm! I am currently in the courtship of more partners than you have had in your entire life. Let's get out of here, Brayden, Kayden, Fabian, Suffolk, Sandalwood, and Oxbow." And then you will **ride away on matching mopeds**, and go somewhere to blow off steam, or whatever. In any case, it seems like you already have the coming out part together. Maybe you should've asked how to be nicer to your parents. Sheesh.

What's the best way to hide a body?

Find me at school. I know a guy.

I AM WORRIED

If this is related to the question above, I'm truly sorry. Otherwise, try eating a **balanced breakfast**. Stress can also be related largely to sleep, which **some melatonin** could help with.

The age group I work with remains the same year to year while I just keep getting older. How do I keep “in touch” with kids these days?

This is a tough one. Don't try to relate at all and you might seem old fashioned, but try too hard and you risk a Hillary Clinton **dabbing/Pokemon Go** situation, making you seem even older and more desperate. This is why you must be **subtle but decisive** in your attempts to relate. My advice is to slip a bit of modern vernacular into your sentences when talking to kids. They'll be unsure they heard you quite right, but subconsciously they will think **you're cooler** for it. Something like “Ms. Wood wants to see you in the farmhouse, **fam squad**” or “your **perseverance and compassion** have been **dope** lately, my home dawg.” However, when you undergo something like this you risk overdoing it. You might notice a **backward baseball cap** where there was none before, or that your **shirts are buttoned a little lower** than you remember. If this happens, I would see a doctor. If untreated, you could end up like one of the many adults pandering for the approval of adolescents, which trust me, is **not** a place you would like to be.

Rufus Seward, P.H.D. apologizes to anyone who did not receive a response. He is very busy.

